

1993
NOV. 1993
GHOSTLY TALES OF SPINE-CHILLING HORROR

WEIRD
TERROR

WEIRD TERROR

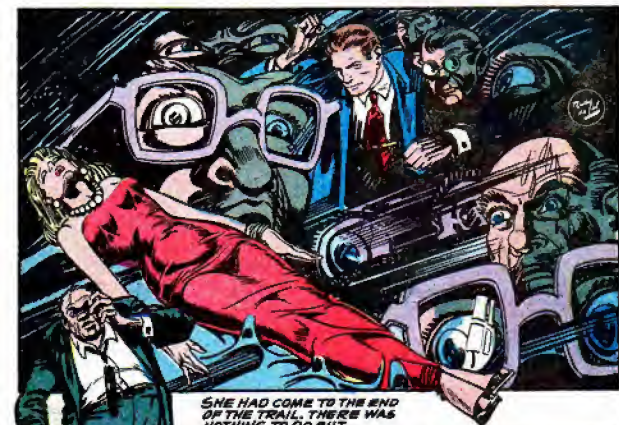
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**SHRUNKEN SKULLS
DECAPITATIONS
CEMETERIES
MURDERS**

**FOUR WEIRD
TALES OF TERROR
THAT WILL TURN
YOUR BLOOD TO ICE!**

COMIC
MEDIA

Don
Ketch



**SHE HAD COME TO THE END
OF THE TRAIL. THERE WAS
NOTHING TO DO BUT...**

DIE

**LOUELLA KELLNER ENTERED THE BOARD
ROOM OF THE STATE HOSPITAL FOR THE
INSANE, WALKING PROUDLY ERECT, HER
EYES STARING AHEAD WITHOUT INTEREST.
THE BOARD MEMBERS WERE FACELESS
PEOPLE WHO MEANT NOTHING TO HER. SHE
HEARD THE DOCTOR AT THE HEAD OF THE
TABLE SPEAKING...**

**TAKE A CHAIR,
MISS KELLNER.**

**WE MUST REVIEW BEFORE YOU, THIS ENTIRE MATTER,
MISS KELLNER. TO BEGIN WITH, YOU WERE...STILL ARE
...THE WARD OF NICHOLAS VICTOR, WHO WAS APPOINTED
YOUR GUARDIAN BY THE WILL OF YOUR FATHER,
WILLIAM KELLNER, WHO BEFORE HIS DEATH WAS
THE BUSINESS PARTNER OF NICHOLAS VICTOR.**





WEB COMIC
UNIVERSE.COM

AFTER THEIR MEETING NICHOLAS VICTOR AND HIS SON GREW SUDDENLY DEVOTED TO LOVELLA THEN ONE DAY...

"AND, MY DEAR, WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN DEVOTED TO YOU. YOU'D HAVE PRESTIGE...MONEY..."

I TELL YOU, I LOVE TOM LOOMIS AND HE IS THE ONE I WILL MARRY!



TOM LOOMIS WENT INTO THE CITY TO LIVE AND HUNT A NEW JOB ONE DARK NIGHT, AS HE WAS RETURNING TO HIS ROOMING HOUSE... DEATH SPRANG FROM THE SHADOWS



AT THAT SAME INSTANT...

TOM! HE'S KILLED YOU! KILLED YOU!

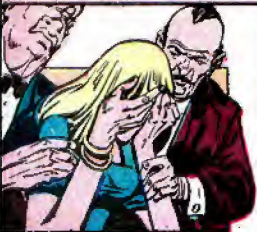


I KNOW HE KILLED TOM! HE KILLED HIM BECAUSE I WOULDN'T MARRY JUNIOR VICTOR! BECAUSE I WAS IN LOVE WITH TOM!

ABSURD, GENTLEMEN! MY YOUNG WARD IS OVERWROUGHT



OF COURSE, BOTH VICTOR AND HIS SON HAD UNIMPEACHABLE ALIBIS. BOTH PROVED CONCLUSIVELY THAT THEY WERE NOWHERE NEAR THE SCENE OF THE CRIME THAT ENTIRE NIGHT...



BUT I SAW IT CLEARLY IN MY DREAM!...SOMETHING I SAW IT!

COME, MY CHILD... WE WILL GO HOME



AFTER THE INCIDENT NICHOLAS VICTOR LOST NO TIME.

MY DEAR, DON'T YOU SEE, IT WAS **MEANT** FOR YOU TO MARRY JUNIOR? THINK WHAT IT WILL MEAN...

YOU KILLED TOM TO GET YOUR WAY! I HATE YOU BOTH! I WON'T MARRY HIM!!



DO YOU REALIZE, YOUNG WOMAN, THAT AS YOUR GUARDIAN I CAN HAVE YOU PLACED IN AN INSANE ASYLUM FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, ON THE STRENGTH OF WHAT YOU HAVE SAID PUBLICLY?

OH... OH... NO!



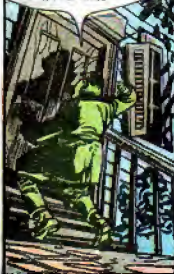
ALL AT ONCE LOUELLA STOPPED FIGHTING. SHE WAS HEARTBROKEN, CONFUSED. THERE WAS NO LONGER ANYTHING TO LIVE FOR, AND SO PLANS FOR THE WEDDING WENT AHEAD...



ON HIS WEDDING EVE, JUNIOR CELEBRATED WITH THE BOYS. WHEN THEY DUMPED HIM OUT AT HIS DOOR, HE WAS IN BAD CONDITION...



LEMME IN! LEMME IN! D'YA HEAR?!



LOUELLA HAD NOT GONE TO SLEEP. SHE HEARD JUNIOR'S SHOUTING AND SHE WENT AUTOMATICALLY DOWN THE STAIRS...

LEMME IN! LOUELLA!

I'M COMING!



THEN SUDDENLY...

WHA... THA... HEY... NO! **HELP! HELP! ARRGGHHH!!**



ALL AT ONCE A SENSE OF WELL BEING CAME OVER LOUELLA. A SENSE OF BEING PROTECTED, SAFE...

I HEARD SOMEONE SHOUT!... WHAT IS IT LOUELLA.

IT'S JUNIOR... HE'S DEAD... VERY DEAD...

LOUELLA WAS ACCUSED AND TRIED FOR JUNIOR'S MURDER. THE PROSECUTION WAS CROSS-EXAMINING...

SINCE YOU DENY YOU MURDERED YOUR FIANCE, PERHAPS YOU CAN TELL THE COURT WHO DID SINCE YOU WERE AT THE SCENE!

OF COURSE!... TOM LOOMIS KILLED JUNIOR VICTOR!



BEFORE THE TRIAL, IT WAS REVEALED THAT LOUELLA WAS WEALTHY IN HER OWN RIGHT. IT AFFORDED HER THE VERY BEST OF LAWYERS.

GENTLEMEN OF THE JURY, LOOK AT THAT CHILD! COULD THOSE TINY HANDS OF LOUELLA KELLNER HAVE BROKEN THE NECK OF HER FIANCE IN A FIT OF RAGE? I ASK YOU?

LOUELLA WAS FOUND NOT GUILTY OF MURDER, BUT HER TESTIMONY WAS SUFFICIENT FOR NICHOLAS VICTOR TO HAVE HER COMMITTED TO THE STATE HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, AND TO HAVE HER DECLARED INCOMPETENT, AND HIMSELF APPOINTED HER CONSERVATOR. AND NOW...

YOU HAVE TENTATIVELY BEEN ADJUDGED CURED, MISS KELLNER. WE ARE RETURNING YOU TO YOUR GUARDIAN. WE WILL SEND AN ATTENDANT HOME WITH YOU.



YOU ARE VERY FORTUNATE. YOUR GUARDIAN HAS NOW OFFERED YOU MARRIAGE IN THE HOPE OF HELPING YOU FORGET...

IT'S MY MONEY HE WANTS, SIR, BUT IT DOES NOT MATTER. NOTHING MAKES ANY DIFFERENCE. WHEN DO I LEAVE?



SHE TOOK A PLANE THAT EVENING. BESIDE HER RODE AN ATTENDANT WHO WAS AS FACELESS AS THE OTHERS AT THE HOSPITAL, AS FACELESS AS THE PASSENGERS ON THE PLANE.



ALL AT ONCE LOVELLA LEANED BACK AND SMILED...

OH, I HAVE SUCH A SENSE OF WELL-BEING! I'M SO HAPPY! OH, TOM!

I'M HERE, DEAR!



FREE! AT LAST!

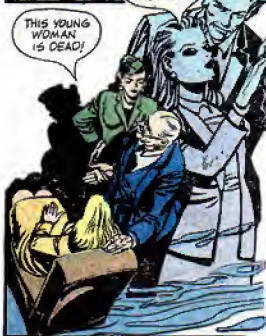
THE ATTENDANT ROSE, CALLING. SHE WAS NO LONGER FACELESS, FOR SHE HAD SEEMED THAT WAY ONLY TO LOVELLA...

STEWARDESS! FIND A DOCTOR, PLEASE!

THIS IS A FAR MORE PLEASANT WORLD! HERE!



THIS YOUNG WOMAN IS DEAD!

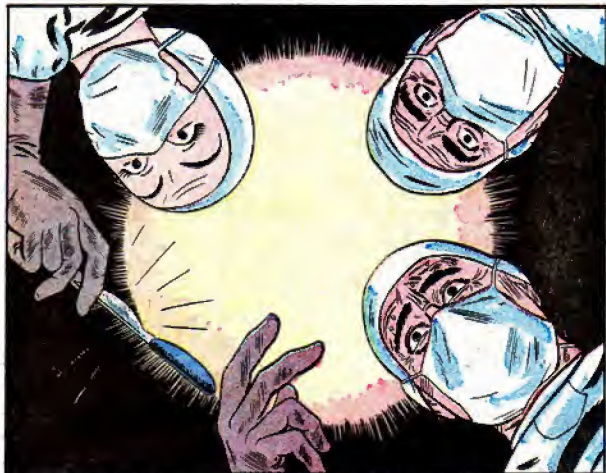


AND JUST AT THIS TIME IN ANOTHER PART OF THE STATE, A STRANGE THING WAS HAPPENING...



...WHICH WAS REPORTED (BUT NOT EXPLAINED) IN THE MORNING PAPERS.





THE PAIN EATS AT YOU LIKE A LIVING THING, CARLO PETERS. YOU'RE FIGHTING FOR YOUR LIFE... TO PUSH THAT TERRIBLE THOUGHT AWAY FROM YOUR MIND. BUT YOU CAN'T! YOU START TO SCREAM, THEN YOU TRY AGAIN TO FORGET IT EVER HAPPENED... BUT STILL YOU CAN'T FORGET YOU'RE JUST A FEW SHORT MINUTES FROM THE...

CEMETERY



CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY HE'S FAILING. WE'VE DONE EVERYTHING WE CAN FOR HIM AND STILL HE DOESN'T RESPOND.

WE'LL HAVE TO TRY SURGERY THEN! IT'S OUR LAST HOPE!

YOU LAY THERE SILENT, STILL. NOW AND THEN YOU FEEL A SHARD PAIN IN YOUR STOMACH, BUT IT'S GETTING BLUNT EDGED NOW. YOU THINK BACK ...BACK TO HOW IT HAPPENED...



YOUR
CLOUDY
BECAUSE
YOU DON'T
WANT TO
THINK
ABOUT
IT
REALLY.
YOU STRAIN
YOUR MIND
TO FIND AN
INCIDENT
YOU CAN
ANCHOR
YOURSELF
TO! EVERY
THING STARTS
TO SPIN. SPIN



FLASHES OF
SUDDEN REMEM-
BRANCE HIT YOUR
AWARENESS LIKE
LIGHT IN A CLOAK OF
DARKNESS... BUT
YOU SINK BACK TO
THAT COLD NUMB-
NESS AGAIN... FOR
YOUR BRAIN CELLS
ARE DETERIORAT-
ING FAST! BLANK...
MELTING... ROTTING.



AND THEN... IT COMES! THE
REASON WHY YOU'RE HERE,
CARL! THE REASON WHY YOU'RE
TRYING SO HARD TO FORGET!
THEY ARE HERE... ANNA, HOWARD,
MARLO... ALL OF THEM TRUNTING,
LEERING, LAUGHING...



AND BACK YOU GO TO THAT DAY
YOU HELD HER IN YOUR ARMS...
SHE WAS THE CAUSE OF IT!
KNOWING HER WAS TO KNOW SUCCE-
SS. LOVING HER WAS TO LOVE LIFE.



I'VE BEEN
LONELY, SO
LONELY CARL!
YOU ARE ALL
THAT MATTERS
DEAREST!
I AM RICH,
EVEN INFLU-
ENTIAL BUT
OH SO LONELY!

I'M RICH.
I'M IMPORT-
ANT NOW!
MARRY YOU
...AND I
MARRY
SUCCESS!



SURE CARL! YOU'RE SITTING
PRETTY, AREN'T YOU? YOU
ARE FOREMAN OF ANNA'S
STEEL MILL... BUT YOU'LL
SOON BE OWNER!



YOU ARE... IF I SAY
SO! NOW GET BACK
ON THAT JOB... OR
YOU'RE THROUGH!

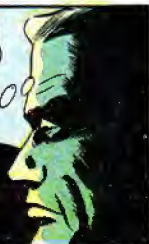




OKAY, YOU OTHERS
LET'S GO. MOVE IT!
WHAT'RE YA GAPIN'
AT? THIS AIN'T NO
DANCE HALL! CHON
HURRY IT UP!

SURE, CARL! YOU'RE TOUGH, AND YOU'RE BRUTAL
YOUR WORLD IS EITHER BLACK OR WHITE... NO
INBETWEENS. YOU GIVE THE ORDERS... AND
THE OTHERS TAKE IT!

NOTHING'S GONNA
STOP ME FROM BEING
BOSS OF THIS MILL!
YOU'RE MINE ANNA,
NOT BECAUSE I
LOVE YOU BUT BE-
I NEED YOU IN
ORDER TO LIVE
LIKE A KING! SO
YOU'LL NEVER
LOSE ME,
NEVER!



YOU DON'T PARTICULARLY CARE WHETHER OR
NOT YOU'RE LIKED BY OTHERS. YOU HAVE A JOB
TO DO AND A DREAM TO CONQUER AND YOU DO IT.
IF OTHERS SEEK YOUR COMPANY, YOU TOLERATE
THEM, BECAUSE THEY'RE WEAK, AND YOU'RE STRONG

I WISH YOU'D VISIT MY
HOUSE SOMETIME
FOR DINNER, CARL



WHY THE HELL IF IT'S
TO GET A BETTER JOB
THE ANSWER IS NO!



N..NO! UHH-N!

Y-YOU HAD
NO CAUSE
TO DO THAT
TO ME, CARL!



NO.. BUT I DID! AND
YOU'LL TAKE IT TOO,
MARLO! AN UGLY HUNCH-
BACK LIKE YOU HAS TO
TAKE IT, BECAUSE
YOU NEED THE JOB!
HA.. HA, HA!

NO, CARL! YOU'RE NOT A
POPULAR MAN! BUT YOU'RE
FEARED! AND THAT'S WHAT
COUNTS IN YOUR MIND! THAT
...AND THE FACT THAT YOU'RE
GOING TO MARRY ANNA SOON!
THEN ONE NIGHT...

I... I DON'T
KNOW! I'M
SO CONFUSED!
I'VE GOT TO
THINK...

I'LL FIX THAT GUY!
HE'S ON MY SHIFT!
I DON'T KNOW HOW
HE MET ANNA... I'M
GONNA MAKE HIM
SORRY HE DID!

SO YOU WAIT FOR THE CHANCE
TO GET AT HOWARD. YOU DOG
HIM, TAUNT HIM, MAKE IT
TOUGH FOR HIM... UNTIL ONE
DAY HE BLOWS UP. THEN
YOU HAVE HIM...

DARLING, I KNOW
THIS IS SUDDEN...
BUT IF WE LOVE
EACH OTHER,
WE MUST TELL
CARL!

THAT RAT!
THAT DIRTY
DIRTY, RAT!

FIGHT FIGHT FIGHT FIGHT FIGHT FIGHT FIGHT FIGHT FIGHT FIGHT

I'M GONNA KILL YOU, HOWARD!
YOU'LL LEAVE ANNA ALONE
AFTER I'M THROUGH HERE!

SO THAT'S IT! WELL I'LL END
YOUR CRAZY DREAM FOR POWER!
SORRY, CARL BUT YOU'RE NOT
GETTING THAT
CHANCE!

OKAY, WISE
GUY! LET'S
SEE IF YOU'RE
A MAN!

YOU'RE
ASKING
FOR IT,
PETERS!

I'LL SEE WHOEVER I PLEASE
NEXT TIME, I WON'T LET YOU OFF
SO EASY, BIG MAN!

OWWWWW!
AIEEE!!

OKAY! DON'T JUST
STAND THERE, THE
FIGHTS OVER! GET
TO WORK! HURRY
IT UP, I SAID!

HE... HE BEAT ME!
MADE ME LOOK LIKE
A FOOL! I'LL GET
HIM FOR THIS IF IT'S
THE LAST THING
I DO!

SO YOU CHANGE
OVERNIGHT, YOU
HAVEN'T FELT TOO
GOOD, ANYWAY.
YOU BECOME
MORE HUMAN.
YOU EVEN CULTI-
VATE MARLO'S
FRIENDSHIP
BUT ALL FOR
A GOOD REASON
OF COURSE...



...AND YOU
SAY THIS
VIAL HAS
ENOUGH
POISON
TO KILL
20 MEN!



SURE, CARL! IT'S
ODORLESS AND
TASTELESS! I
MADE IT MYSELF!
I'LL DONATE IT TO
MEDICINE! IT
REALLY WORKS!

AND IT CAN'T BE
TEACED EITHER, EH?
MARLO-I HAD YOU
ALL WRONG, YOU'RE
PRETTY BRIGHT! ANY
TIME YOU WANT YOUR
JOB CHANGED, YOU
LET ME KNOW!



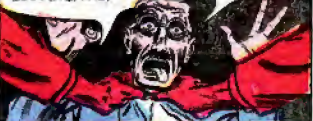
YOU MEAN
IT, CARL?
SAY, THAT'S
SWELL! I-I
CAN H-
HARDLY
BELIEVE IT!

IT'S A PROMISE,
MARLO! YOU WON'T
BE ON YOUR JOB
TOMORROW, I GIVE
YOU MY WORD, IN
FACT YOU WON'T
BE ALIVE
EITHER, HA...HA...



Y-YOU'RE JOKING,
CARL! I-I'M YOUR
FRIEND, R-RIGHT?
OH...I SEE IT NOW!
YOU WANT TO USE
THE POISON ON
SOMEONE! WELL,
I WON'T TELL!

THAT'S IT, LITTLE MAN!
YOU'RE A BRIGHT BOY!
BUT YOU'RE A LITTLE TOO
BRIGHT! YOU AIN'T GONNA
BLACKMAIL ME, MARLO!
GOODBYE, PAL!



NO, CARL! I WOULD
NEVER TELL...
N-NEVER...
URRRGGHH...

YOU BURY MARLO IN HIS BACKYARD. THE POLICE
WON'T FIND HIM FOR YEARS. YOU'LL BE TOO IMPORT-
ANT TO TOUCH BY THAT TIME. NOW TO USE THE POISON
FOR SOMETHING SPECIAL... SAY... AN ENGAGEMENT...

OH, CARL! I HOPE
YOU'LL UNDERSTAND!

SURE BABY! THE BETTER
MAN WON! LET'S HAVE A
TOAST TO SHOW THERE'S
NO HARD FEELINGS!



HERE'S TO
BOTH OF YOU



DRINK YOUR LAST DRINK, YOU
SUCKER! WHEN YOU CROAK,
ANN WILL BE MINE! HA, HA...

THEN WHEN THEY'VE GONE...

IT'LL TAKE ABOUT EIGHT HOURS FOR IT TO WORK! BY THAT TIME NO ONE WILL SUSPECT I HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH HIS DEATH! WHAT A PERFECT MURDER!



AND SUDDENLY... WHILE YOU'RE LAUGHING, THE PAIN HITS YOU LIKE A KNIFE! YOU GET NUMB ALL OVER. THEN IT HITS YOU AGAIN! THE ROOM WAVES... AND THE LIGHTS DIM...



AND YOU FIND YOURSELF ON AN OPERATING TABLE WHEN THEY'RE TURNED ON AGAIN. YOU, CARL PETERS, ON AN OPERATING TABLE... HAVING YOUR GUTS CUT OPEN BY A BUNCH OF SAWBONES...

IT'S USELESS! HIS CONDITION HAS PROGRESSED TO AN UNCONTROLLABLE STATE!

I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT, NURSE. WHEEL HIM OUT! MAKE HIM AS COMFORTABLE AS YOU CAN!



SO THEY WHEEL YOU OUT THROUGH A DARK-ENED HALL WAY INTO THE BOWELS OF THE HOSPITAL. YOU LAY THERE WONDERING WHAT'S HAPPENED. YOU TRY TO MOVE... BUT YOU CAN'T... YOU CAN'T EVEN SPEAK!

YOU HEAR VOICES AS YOU'RE WHEELED BY. FACES LOOK DOWN AT YOU AS YOU CLOSE YOUR EYES WEARILY. THEN THAT PAIN COMES AGAIN...

IT'S NOT RIGHT! GOT TO WIN MY DREAM GOT TO.



I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE! Y-YOU CAN'T STOP ME! LET ME UP!

AIEE!



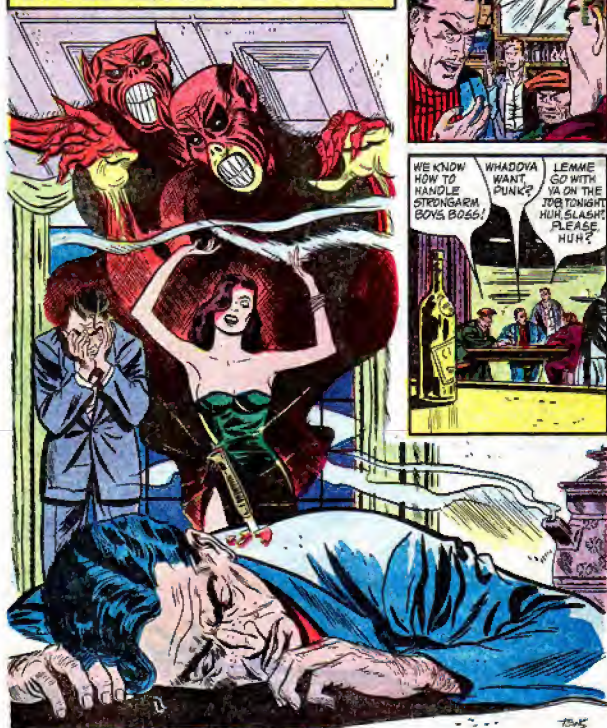
THEN EVERYTHING GOES BLANK, CARL PETERS. YOUR SCHEME PROBABLY WORKED, BUT YOUR DREAM IS OVER, FOREVER! YOU'RE DEAD CARL... NO, NOT FROM POISON! DEATH PLAYED ITS OWN LITTLE SWITCHEROO ON YOU! YOU'VE BEEN KILLED BY CANCER!!

WHAT IS THIS? LET ME GET UP! WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?



STRANGE AND UNHOLY ARE THOSE WHO HAUNT THE DOCKS... AS STRANGE AS THE SHADOWY SLUMS THROUGH WHICH THEY WANDER, AND AMONG THEM THERE IS ALWAYS ONE WHO WOULD GIVE HIS SOUL TO BE KING OF THE....

WATERFRONT



JUST SUCH A SLY BUT FEARFUL DREAMER IS BENNY GLIR, AS "SLASH" CARVER, BOSS OF THE WATERFRONT, CONFERES WITH HIS BOYS, BENNY APPROACHES...

CAPTAIN BULK OF THE ISLAND QUEEN'S OUR MEAT BOYS, HE'S CARRYIN' A PEARL BIG AS YOUR FIST, WITH TWO STRONG ARMS TO GUARD HIM...

SLASH! HEY SLASH!



WE KNOW HOW TO HANDLE STRONGARM BOYS, BOSS!

WHADDOYA WANT, PUNK?

LEMME GO WITH YA ON THE JOB TONIGHT HUH, SLASH! PLEASE, HUH?









AND SO THE KING OF THE WATERFRONT DOUBLE
CROSSES HIS FRIENDS FOR A WOMAN...

I'M NUTS ABOUT YA,
SARRA! YA WANT THE
PEARL? I'LL GIVE IT
TO YA! I'LL...

IT IS NOT THE PEARL.
I WANT, POOR FOOL...



...IT'S YOUR
LIFE!

WHA...?
AAAGGHHH!



WELL DONE, BENNY
GLAD! NOW SIT THERE
AT THE TABLE, QUICK!
WHILE I CALL MY
FRIENDS!

COULDN'T
WE GET
RID OF
OF...?

COME, ON BLACK
ONES! COME MY
UNDEAD ANCESTORS
WHO WALK THE EARTH
IN DARKNESS! THIS
MAN HAS KILLED FOR
US! COME TO HIM,
EVIL AND ALL
POWERFUL SPIRITS!

I DON'T
WANNA
SIT NEXT
TO... S-S-
SARRA!
W-WHAT
ARE
YOU
SAYING
?

WE ARE HERE
MURDEROUS ONE,
TO MAKE YOU WHAT
YOU DESIRE TO BE!
BUT FIRST, YOU MUST
PROMISE TO JOIN US
AT THE MOMENT
OF YOUR EARTHLY
DEATH!

SARRA!
WHAT'VE
YOU
DONE?
DON'T
TOUCH ME,
YOU DEVILS!



ANSWER US,
QUICKLY! WILL
YOU WALK THE
EARTH WITH US
AFTER DEATH?

YES YES!
ANYTHING!
GET THEM
AWAY FROM
ME, SARRA!

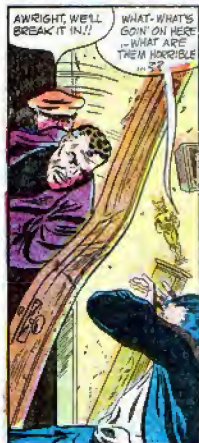
WEAK WITH TERROR, BENNY RAJAS

THEN, FOR THE REST
OF YOUR LIFE, YOU
ARE KING OF THE
WATERFRONT! BUT
WE WILL BE WAITING
FOR YOU!!

I'M
KING
OF...
OH...



MOMENTS LATER, A BODY PLUNGES INTO THE ATON
BLACK WATER BELOW, AND...



BUT AS BENNY RACES, IN BLIND TERROR,
TOWARD THE WINDOWS...

YA GOT THE WRONG
GUY, I TELL YA! D-
DON'T SHOOT, DON'T!

HA HA! LOOK AT 'IM
RUN! THE KING OF
THE WATERFRONT!
HA HA HA!



HE CATCHES
A GLIMPSE OF
HIMSELF IN
THE GLASS
AND REALIZES
TO HIS HORROR
THAT THE 'BLACK
ONES' HAVE
KEPT THEIR
PROMISE!



NO! OH, NO!

LET 'IM
HAVE IT!

FOR IN THE LAST FEW MINUTES OF HIS LIFE, BENNY GLIP
HAD INDEED BEEN "KING OF THE WATERFRONT..."

NOOOOOOOO!!



IN THE BODY OF "SLASH" CARVER!!

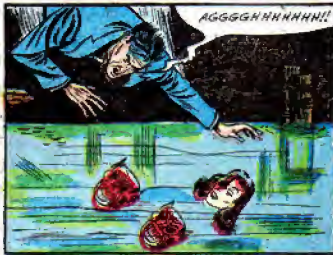
OHNNNNNNNNNN!

BLAM

BLAM
BLAM



AND AS HIS GLAZING EYES STARE
INTO THE WATER BELOW, A VOICE OF
DOOM REPEATS IN HIS DYING BRAIN:
"...WE WILL BE WAITING FOR YOU!"



HOMER BOBBLE DIDN'T LIKE RADIO QUIZ SHOWS... AND HE HATED HIS WIFE WHO DID! SO IT WAS EASY TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO... UNTIL... HOMER FELL IN LOVE WITH QUIZ SHOWS HIMSELF AND WON HIS WIFE'S FAT HEAD!

DECAPITATION



IT BEGAN VERY SIMPLE FOR YOU HOMER BOBBLE. FOR YEARS NOW ROBERTA ATE AND GREW FAT.. YOU DIDN'T MIND.. BUT WHEN SHE STARTED NEGLECTING YOU IT GOT TO BE TOO MUCH!





SO FOR ONE WEEK YOU PLAN EVERYTHING DOWN TO THE SMALLEST DETAIL. YOU WAIT WHEN ROBERTA IS OUT ONE EVENING AT HER USUAL RADIO-QUIZ SHOWS... AND THEN WHEN IT'S TIME FOR HER TO COME HOME...

TAKE PLENTY OF TIME ROBERTA, MY DEAR! I CAN WAIT THIS ONE NIGHT...



THE LOCK CLICKS! THE DOOR SWINGS OPEN... AND IN WALKS...

HOMER! GUESS WHAT HAPPENED? I WON! I WON! AREN'T THESE DISHES SIMPLY TOO CUTE!

VERY CUTE, HONEY! OH THEY'RE GEORGE DUS!



H-HOMER... IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG? W-WHY ARE YOU SMILING LIKE THAT? W-WHAT ARE YOU HOLDING BEHIND YOUR BACK?



JUST AN IRON POKER, ROBERTA, DEAR! HAVEN'T YOU SEEN ONE BEFORE? THEY'RE USED FOR FIRE PLACES AND OTHER THINGS! HA, HA...

N-N-O, NO! HOMER! EEEE...



IT'S DONE, HOMER BOBBLE! NO MORE INSANE CHATTER! NO MORE CRAZY QUIZ SHOWS... NO MORE ROBERTA!

YOU DON'T MIND A LITTLE RAIN, DO YOU, ROBERTA, DARLING? THE GARDEN PATH IS THE ONLY WAY I CAN DRAG YOUR FAT CARCASS TO THE CELLAR!



THE RAIN FEELS COOL
AND INVITING, ROBERTA!
I'M GOING TO BURY YOU IN
OUR NICE WARM CELLAR!
YOU'LL LIKE THAT!

YOU TURN YOUR BACK ON THE STORM... AND THE
STORM SLIGHTED SENDS A LIGHTNING-BOLT SMASH-
ING DOWN TOWARDS YOU IN DEFIANCE!

UGHHH!

CRRRRAC

BLACKNESS... UGLY AND OMINOUS! A SPINN-
ING SPINNING... INTO A WHIRLPOOL OF DREAD!
YOU'RE IN AN ABYSS, HOMER... A POINT OF
NO RETURN!

NO! NO! NO!

AND SUDDENLY YOU'RE OUT OF IT!

W-WHAT HAPPENED?
OH-H... MY HEAD! I
NEARLY GOT KILLED
IN THIS FOOL ELEC-
TRICAL STORM! I'M
SOAKING WET!

UH...ALMOST FORGOT
WHAT I WAS DOING!
HERE YOU ARE, DEAR,
I JUST LOST MY HEAD
FOR A MOMENT! WE
HAVE AN APPOINTMENT
TO KEEP, DON'T WE?

AND IN THE CELLAR MOMENTS LATER...

WELL...GOODBYE MY
DEAR... SWEET DREAMS.
THIS WILL BE THE LAST
TIME I EVER SEE YOU.
NO MORE ARGUMENTS!
NO MORE COLD MEALS!
JUST PURE DELICIOUS
HEAVENLY QUIET!
HA, HA!...

SO YOU PREPARE FOR SLEEP, FEELING GOOD FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YOUR LIFE!

WHY DIDN'T I DO IT SOONER? TO THINK I TORTURED MYSELF FOR YEARS! WHAT A HORRIBLE THOUGHT! NO ONE WILL EVER FIND OUT! MY ALIBI IS AIRTIGHT!



AND NO ONE GOES! BUT A FEW MORNINGS LATER, THE POSTMAN DELIVERS A LETTER...

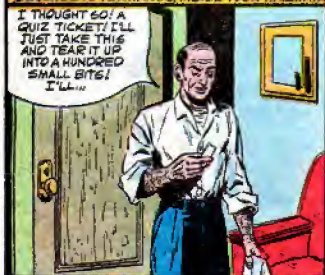
NICE DAY, AIN'T IT, MR. BOBBLE?

IT SURE IS, SAM! HMMM, THANK YOU! I'LL GIVE THIS TO ROBERTA WHEN SHE, AH, COMES HOME FROM HER VACATION!



SECONDS AFTERWARDS, INSIDE YOUR HALLWAY...

I THOUGHT SO! A QUIZ TICKET! I'LL JUST TAKE THIS AND TEAR IT UP INTO A HUNDRED SMALL BITS! I'LL...



WAIT! WHY NOT GO TO ONE OF THOSE PROGRAMS MYSELF? A SORT OF CELEBRATION! ROBERTA WOULD BE DELIGHTED! HEH, HEH, IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO FOR HER, POOR THING!



SO YOU GO TO THE RADIO SHOW THAT NIGHT... AND... WONDER OF WONDERS... YOU ARE SELECTED AS A CONTESTANT! THE QUIZ-BUG BITES YOU AND YOU'RE DYING TO GET ON THE AIR!

OH, I'M SO SORRY! THE CORRECT ANSWER WAS 643 APPLES IN A BARREL! BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME!

SURE! THAT WAS EASY! JUST WAIT UNTIL I GET UP THERE!



AND YOU DO!

THE ANSWER IS... JOHN QUINCY ADAMS... UH... LEMME SEE... AROUND 1735 OR THEREABOUTS!

YOU'RE RIGHT, SIR! GIVE THAT MAN A BOX OF CRUNCHY WUNCHIES AND... NOW YOUR JACKPOT QUESTION!



